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After having worked in the field of Mental Retardation for many years we have realized the importance of family oriented services as against child oriented services. Among the family, siblings are the importance resource which can be targeted towards habilitation & rehabilitation of persons with Mental Retardation. Siblings relationships are the earliest, the largest & most enduring of are the family relationship & their influence lasts a lifetime, (Turnball & Turnbull 1990).

As started by siblings:

- "When my parents gave me responsibilities it made me feel that I was helping & contributing to the family".
- "I want to know more, educate myself & help myself to understand my brother and for future planning for my brother".

In spite of the fact that 'Siblings' can be developed as importance resource which can be used for habilitation & rehabilitation of person with Mental Retardation.

- Very few researches have attempted to examine this relationship.
- Intervention programmes in India have ignored Siblings.

Keeping in view the above rationale the study entitled "A Study of the Effect of Training Programme for Siblings on Academic Achievement of Children with Mental Retardation" was taken up.

METHODOLOGY

The present study which is an attempt to study the effect of siblings training in the children with mental retardation falls in the category of experimental research. The investigator tries to control or eliminate or hold constant the effect of irrelevant conditions to study the effect of one or more variables on another. Hence a comparison of experimental or non-experimental is made by systematically varying conditions.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The present study is an experimental study with a controlled group with Pre-test designs. The stepwise distribution of the groups is given below.

- Equate two groups of children with mental retardation who have elder siblings;
- Give pre-test to both the groups for measurement of their academic performance;
- Train the siblings of one group i.e. a experimental group;
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- After a specific duration of time of training for one year measure the performance of both the groups through post test and compare;
- Every step followed and every precaution to taken to increase the reliability and generaliability by proper method of group equation and control of variable.

TOOLS USED

In the present study, an assessment tool was devised by the investigator to measure the academic level (functional) in areas of reading, writing number, money and time. Observation and interview method were used for filling up the assessment tools.

Secondly, training kit was devised for assistance in siblings training. A book "Play Fun 'N' Learn" was developed by the investigator.

PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION

Assessment tools devised by the investigator were administered individually on all the 50 samples in the respective schools. Observation interview of the parents for collecting related information was conducted. After assessing current level of performance of all the 50 samples, the group of 25 controlled samples was left out and all the siblings of the 25 experimental group children were contacted and training was given to them.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

After collection the data the initial score of base line assessment data of all 50 children and the final score of all the children was then subjected to analysis. Taking into consideration the objectives and hypothesis of the study the data was analyzed, by employing descriptive statistical technique like Mean, Standard Deviation, Standard error difference and 't' test. The 't' test was used to test the significance of difference between means of different groups, which were formed in the hypothesis.

CONCLUSIONS

- There is significant effect of sibling training programme on total academic achievement of children with mental retardation.
- There is significant effect of sibling training programme on sibling's understanding of various aspects of mental retardation.
- There is significant difference in I.E.P. and non I.E.P. achievement scores of children with mental retardation.
- There is significant difference in achievement level of children with mental retardation having male siblings and children with mental retardation having female siblings.